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## United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, EX OFFICIO

BERNARD F. McMAHON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
ERIC D. NEWBOM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 18, 1985

Dear Colleague:

During the past few weeks, the United States has experienced a series of events that have focused attention on serious counterintelligence and security problems. The Walker espionage case, the Miller espionage trial in Los Angeles, and the reports of Soviet bugging of typewriters at our Embassy in Moscow have all highlighted the need for better performance in this area.

The Select Committee on Intelligence has given high priority to counterintelligence and security problems since its creation in 1976. Under Chairman Inouye, the FBI counterintelligence budget was included for the first time in the overall National Foreign Intelligence Program. Under Chairman Goldwater, the Committee took the lead in calling for increased resources for FBI, CIA, and Defense Department counterintelligence operations. This year, as part of the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 1986, the Committee recommended legislation to address the Soviet intelligence threat that was later passed by the Senate in the form of amendments to the Department of State authorization.

Earlier this year, the Select Committee began planning a broad review of U.S. counterintelligence and security programs. On June 11, 1985, the Committee agreed to begin a comprehensive review of the Soviet intelligence threat and U.S. counterintelligence and security programs. This review is to be done within the context of the Committee's continuing oversight responsibilities and will include an examination of the implications for national security growing out of the Walker case. Topics to be addressed include:

- o Changes in the nature and extent of Soviet espionage operations both within the United States and against U.S. installations and interests overseas;

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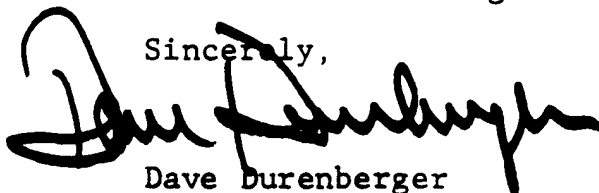
- o The reasons behind the record number of espionage cases in the last year;
- o How effectively U.S. counterintelligence agencies have utilized the increased resources made available to them by the Congress; and
- o What needs to be done to improve security so that truly sensitive information and operations are better protected.

The Committee intends to examine all aspects of the problem, including the classification system, the personnel security system and the communications security system, as well as computer and other forms of technical and operational security. We plan to hold a series of closed hearings and briefings, which are already underway. We also look forward to cooperating with the Executive branch and benefitting from the internal reviews underway in the Defense Department and other agencies.

We have instructed our staff to coordinate with other interested Senate Committees. In particular, the Select Committee expects to follow up on the recommendations of Senators Nunn and Roth of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which has completed an investigation of shortcomings in the government's security clearance program.

The aim of the Committee is to prepare a full report on the adequacy of U.S. counterintelligence and security programs and the improvements needed to protect the national security in these fields. We solicit the suggestions and views of all Members of the Senate as we begin this task.

Sincerely,



Dave Burenberger  
Chairman



Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman

# news release

## Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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"The proposed Commission on Security and Espionage would have delayed much needed immediate action by the Congress and the Executive Branch on counterintelligence and counter espionage issues", said Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.), Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Durenberger was commenting on the Senate's rejection of the formation of a National Commission on Security and Espionage. The Senate turned down the idea on a 50 to 48 vote today.

"A National Commission on Security and Espionage is more likely to retard progress on these issues than it is to further it", Durenberger said.

Durenberger pointed out that the Senate Select Committee had already begun planning a broad review of U.S. counterintelligence and security programs. He said that review would address such topics as the changes in the nature and extent of Soviet espionage operations, the reasons behind the record number of espionage cases in the last year, how effectively U.S. counterintelligence agencies have utilized increased resources, and what needs to be done to improve security so that truly sensitive information and operations are better protected.

Durenberger also pointed out that the Intelligence Committee has a long history of giving high priority to counterintelligence and security problems. "Under our first Chairman, Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, the FBI counterintelligence budget was included for the first time in the overall national foreign intelligence program. The Committee has also passed such legislation as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the Classified Information Procedures Act, the Intelligence Identities Protection Act, and has given increased resources to the FBI, the CIA and Defense Department's Counterintelligence Operations," Durenberger continued.

Regarding this year's program, Durenberger said the Committee intended to follow up on the recommendations of Senators Nunn and Roth of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which has completed an investigation of shortcomings in the government security clearance program.

"The aim of the Committee is to prepare a full report on the adequacy of U.S. counterintelligence and security programs and the improvements needed to protect the national security in these fields," Durenberger said.

"Although the formation of a national commission was well intended, I think for a variety of reasons it is best to work within the established intelligence oversight structure", Durenberger said.

Durenberger concluded his statement by saying that he expects excellent cooperation between the Committee and the Executive Branch. "The White House is clearly as concerned as we are regarding the need for improvement, and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has received assurances of close cooperation from counterintelligence officials and top policymakers", Durenberger concluded.